

**CITY OFFICES  
CLOSED**

Monday, July 5 for Independence Day, and Thursday, July 29 from 10-11:30 a.m. for Employee Recognition.

# Takoma Park

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world..."*  
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

## NEWSLETTER

**TRASH HOLIDAYS**

July 5 Independence Day Observed, trash collection July 6, no yard waste collection.

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JULY 2010

# Budget Talks Spur Consideration of Drastic Measures

By VIRGINIA MYERS

When Councilmember Terry Seamens suggested replacing City staff with volunteers and contractors in the Recreation Department, many residents and staff members were shocked. But the notion of radically changing a long-standing City program may be the first of many such transformational considerations, as the next budget season promises to be even more difficult than the last.

Seamens' suggestion was to maintain City recreation services, but cut costs by using volunteers, rather than paid staff, to provide them. Staff would help with the mechanics of managing volunteers and contractors. "What I'm suggesting is that a council-appointed recreation commission would be given the responsibility of scheduling and programming our recreational facilities, with the exception of senior programs; that we would eliminate staff-run programs and depend exclusively on contractor and volunteer programs; that we have the commission identify the programming needs, design programs that fill those needs, and locate program providers whether they be volunteers or con-

tractors to provide those programs," he said at a City Council meeting May 10.

Since that time, the budget has been passed, and the Recreation Department has remained intact. The idea was too much to consider in the short amount of time before a budget had to be approved, and Councilmembers agreed to take it up at a later date.

Mayor Bruce Williams, who sets the City Council agenda, says he plans on looking at this and other budget-related issues beginning in September, "so that people have a foundation for going into the next budget," when the process begins again in early 2011. He anticipates that the Recreation Department will be one of the first areas discussed. And, he adds, he is considering creating focus groups that would provide residents a way to participate.

Seamens says his proposal was inspired by conversations among council members and City staff about macro changes, like eliminating officer positions in the Police Department, or turning over the entire library to the County. "All of us were looking at aggressive measures to try and save some money," he said recently.



**CHOOSING CHERRIES**

A young shopper chooses carefully at the Crossroads Farmers Market, open each Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. The market, at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue, features produce, baked goods and freshly made pupusas. On Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Takoma Park Farmers Market, on Laurel Avenue in Old Town, offers local produce, dairy and meat, baked goods, garden plants, and more. See <http://thecrossroadsfarmersmarket.org/> and <http://www.takomaparkmarket.com>.

Photo by Laurie Stepp

**How Many Volunteers?**

Volunteers have been a part of the conversation about the Recreation Department for some time. A month after Seamens' proposal, councilmembers, staff and recreation committee members seem open to infusing more of them into its programs. But going to an almost-all-volunteer format seems highly unlikely.

"You can't have a whole recreation department run by volunteers," says Jay Keller, a member of the resident-member Recreation Committee. "I don't think anybody on our committee thought that would work." Some of the issues of concern

include: the number of qualified volunteers available, the amount of training they would need, and the reliability – or possible lack thereof -- among volunteers who are not held to a paycheck.

Kay Daniels Cohen, another member of the Recreation Committee and a lifelong recreation professional, adds that liability could be an issue. "There's a whole lot more

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
continues on page 12

# Walgreens Begins Construction at the Crossroads

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Takoma-Langley Crossroads will soon have a new Walgreens drugstore.

The national chain began construction last month at 1329 University Boulevard East, just east of New Hampshire Avenue, and expects it to be ready for business in March 2011. The drugstore will replace the recently shuttered Udupi Palace Indian restaurant and the Ritmo Latino music store, which closed some time ago. Udupi has moved in with its sister business, Tiffin restaurant, down the street at 1341 University Boulevard, expanding the menu there to include both northern and southern Indian cuisine; Ritmo Latino owners have opened a new T-Mobile shop down the row at 1305 University Boulevard East.

When completed, the new Walgreens will cover 13,000 to 14,000 square feet and include a drive-through pharmacy at the back. The building, which will be completely gutted, will retain the back wall. Keeping that back wall, rather than razing the entire building, classifies the project as a renovation rather than a new building, and eliminates the requirement for public involvement (like public hearings) in the site plan



**Site of the new Walgreens store under construction at 1329 University Boulevard East, formerly the Udupi Palace Indian restaurant.**

Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

approval process. It also eliminates input from City planners, leaving the permit and approval process entirely to Montgomery County planning staff.

Although City planners had no specific influence over the Walgreens project, they continue to keep a close watch on Takoma Langley Crossroads as they anticipate revitalization of the area. In addition to the New Ave effort, which involves the area along New Hampshire Avenue south of Merrimac Drive

and all the way to the District of Columbia border, the intersection of New Hampshire and University is set for a boost after the Purple Line transportation hub comes in. Over the course of possible redevelopment, City planners are hoping to balance Mom and Pop businesses and shops that serve the distinct population in the neighborhood – which is heavily Latino – with the

**WALGREEN**  
continues on page 12

## INSIDE:

- Electric Maid**..... Page 3
- Greening the City**..... Page 5
- Treveling Play**..... Page 11

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Takoma Park, MD 20912

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

- Monday, July 5** – City offices closed for the Independence Day holiday
- Tuesday, July 6** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
- Thursday, July 8** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
- Monday, July 12** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
- Monday, July 12** – Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)
- Tuesday, July 13** - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)
- Tuesday, July 13** - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
- Tuesday, July 13** - Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)
- Tuesday, July 13** - Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs hearing, 7 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)
- Monday, July 19** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
- Monday, July 26** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
- Tuesday, July 27** – Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
- Tuesday, July 27** – (tentative) Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)
- Tuesday, July 27** – Tuesday, September 7 – City Council summer recess

\*For the most up to date information, check <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda>. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the city clerk at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the city clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

# City Council Action\*

\*Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

## May 17, 2010 - Special Session

- Resolution 2010-31 was adopted**, recognizing Pat Loveless as the "Takoma Park Peace Delegate"
- First Reading Ordinance 2010-22 was accepted**, setting the Fiscal Year 2011 Tax Rate (Voting No: Snipper, Schultz)
- First Reading Ordinance 2010-23 was accepted**, adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 Stormwater Management Budget
- First Reading Ordinance 2010-24 was accepted**, adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

## May 24, 2010 – Regular Meeting

- Second Reading Ordinance 2010-22 was adopted**, setting the Fiscal Year 2011 Tax Rate

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-23 was adopted**, adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 Stormwater Management Budget

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-24 was adopted**, adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

## June 7, 2010 - Regular Meeting

- Resolution 2010-32 was adopted**, regarding the use of City funds for purchase of polystyrene food service ware
- First Reading Ordinance 2010-25 was accepted**, authorizing FY 2010 Budget Amendment No. 3
- Single Reading Ordinance 2010-26 was adopted**, authorizing the purchase of a replacement van for the Recreation Department
- Resolution 2010-33 was adopted**, appointing Isaac Smith to the Facade Advisory Board



### WACO Community Requests Park Name Change

Residents around Takoma Urban Park have requested that the City Council support their request to have the park name changed to Gilbert Kombe Park. Gilbert Kombe, a public health expert on HIV/AIDS and homeless advocate, died in 2009. He was a Takoma Park resident and native of Zambia. Kombe was a humanitarian who served as a role model and mentor both locally and globally.

Takoma Urban Park, a .8-acre parcel on Westmoreland Avenue at Carroll Avenue, features a gazebo and a playground. It is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) – Montgomery County Parks. The change of name would require M-NCPPC approval. The Council will be discussing whether to support the residents' request at its worksession on July 19, with a resolution tentatively scheduled on July 26. Residents wishing to comment may attend the City Council meeting, send comments to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org) or to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912.



### Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Issuance of City of Takoma Park General Obligation Bond 2-2010

Pursuant to Section 823(b) of the City of Takoma Park Charter which requires a public hearing to be held on any proposed indebtedness that is greater than 5 percent of the revenue budgeted for the fiscal year in which the bond is to be issued, the City of Takoma Park Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed issuance of City of Takoma Park General Obligation Bond 2-2010 in connection with a private negotiated bond sale. The \$1.5 million general obligation bond will be used to finance a portion of the cost of renovating the City's Public Works Facility. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Written public comments may be submitted to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912 or by e-mail to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).



### Notice of Public Hearing – Alcoholic Beverage Laws

This month, the Takoma Park City Council will be considering a resolution asking the Maryland General Assembly to change alcoholic beverage laws affecting Takoma Park so that stores and restaurants may be allowed to sell beer and wine to go. There will be a public hearing on this issue on Monday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. The public is invited to attend the hearing and sign up to speak, or send comments to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions for Takoma Park residents available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees) or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org)).

**Arts and Humanities Commission**  
(vacancies)

**Takoma Park Board of Elections**  
(vacancy)

**Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs**  
(vacancy – tenants especially invited to apply)

**Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee**  
(vacancies)

**Personnel Appeal Board**  
(vacancy)

**Recreation Committee**  
(vacancies)

**Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee**  
(vacancies)

# Electric Maid Returns, Brighter Than Ever

BY KEVIN ADLER

About six months shy of celebrating its 10th anniversary, The Electric Maid held a grand reopening ceremony in May. Such is the complicated, colorful history of Takoma Park's self-proclaimed "community living room."

Named after a defunct vegan restaurant and run on a shoestring by volunteers, The Maid is located at 268 Carroll Ave., about midway between the Metro and Old Takoma. It welcomes everything from teen punk concerts to art shows to meetings and classes—but its leaders believe they have only scratched the surface of how The Maid can serve the community.

"We're part of the Third Space Movement, the idea that we need 'third spaces' where people can gather that are not private homes or commercial businesses," says Brian Robinson, the facilities manager of The Maid and one of the founders of Friends of Old Takoma (FOOT), which operates The Maid.

"The idea of The Maid is to foster a more cohesive community and to help people get to know their neighbors. We might have physical proximity with each other, but we're not necessarily interacting... across economic and social lines," adds Carol Goter-Robinson, Brian's mother and treasurer for FOOT. "The Maid can be like the corn silo cooperative or Safe Takoma, where people from the community come together to help each other."

## The Early Years

Like so many other Takoma Park institutions, the Electric Maid has its roots in protest. FOOT began as Friends of Park Pharmacy (FOPP), formed in 1999 to save the pharmacy on Carroll Avenue. When the owner of Park Pharmacy eschewed their assistance and sold to CVS, FOPP re-focused on promoting a sustainable downtown business area and became FOOT.

In early 2001, FOOT signed a lease on an empty storefront that Freidrich Dry Cleaners had used as storage for more than 20 years. The name Electric Maid came from a vegan diner operated by Seventh Day Adventists and then by the Hishmesh family. That diner—spelled Elektrik Maid—is Mark's Kitchen today. The Hishmeshes went on to open Middle East Market and Olive Lounge.

In the early years, visiting The Maid was a Spartan experience. Watching a performance one cold winter day in 2002



The vintage Electric Mail sign was refurbished as part of the push to re-open what organizers call Takoma Park's "community living room."

Photo courtesy FOOT

in a facility that lacked heat and hot water, "Washington Post" reporter Libby Copeland wrote an article titled "Paradise Frost."

But patrons kept trickling in, and board members Joel Pomerantz, Doug Carter and Joe Brown, as well as City Councilmember Terry Seamens, have been instrumental in obtaining funding or finding partners to donate goods and services. "It's been a struggle in some ways," admitted Robinson, "but we're still here. We've muddle through because of the good will of the community. There always seems to be someone who found out about us and came along with the skills we needed at the time."

Stepping inside today, a visitor will see an 8' x 12' stage cantilevered from the back wall, backed by a large painting of silver wind swirling through moonlit trees. The piece was done for free by D.C. muralist Meghan Taylor. To the right is a partially completed counter. The main area is open, which provides flexibility to arrange tables and chairs to suit the occasion. The floor is a vibrant blue speckled with silver. Heat, hot water, air conditioning and a new sound system are operational.

The grand reopening in May marked the renovation of the historic blue-red-and-white art deco neon signs, funded mostly through a grant from the D.C. Council that was obtained by the Old Takoma Business

Association. One sign says Elektrik Maid Community Exchange, and the other sign says Freidrich's Modern Dry Cleaning. "OTBA is very pleased to have the signs back," said Roz Grigsby, OTBA executive director. "Funding also helped to pay for re-pointing bricks and replacing and cleaning glass bricks on the façade of the building, as well as putting in new windows. When the signs are glowing, they are an attractive landmark as we try to revitalize the blocks from Maple Avenue to the Metro."

## More Than a Teen Hangout

Now, the task is to add a glow to The Maid's image. The facility is best known for being a hangout for teens and 20-somethings—which has turned off other would-be patrons.

"Being a space for teens is part of what we do, and the concerts have been a reliable fundraiser since the beginning," says Goter-Robinson. "But we do so much more than that, and I wouldn't want people to think that's what we're about. We've had art shows, jam sessions by Takoma Zone, and labor union meetings. We'll rent it for private events. We'll do whatever you want—if you want to teach knitting, come and teach knitting."

Ask Laura Barclay about The Maid's try-anything, open-arms attitude. Last fall, Barclay took her young daughters to see a

concert organized by Goter-Robinson by Takoma Park's "Mr. Gabe" Hutter. "Mr. Gabe was great, but there were only three kids in the room for this terrific show," says Barclay. "I talked with Carol and said I could help them with promotions because I'm plugged in to the parents' networks around here."

Next thing Barclay knew, she was the promoter and host of three Saturday morning events—a puppeteer, an improv class, and a return engagement by Mr. Gabe. "We filled the room each time, and the kids loved it," says Barclay.

Barclay's kids might represent the next generation at The Maid, but the past generation still comes to visit, too. In early May, Hettie Beth, age 24, held her baby shower at The Maid. "I pretty much grew up at The Maid going to shows every weekend," says Beth, who now lives in Columbia. "I couldn't think of a better place to celebrate. It was cool coming there and remembering with my friends what it meant for us."

Event rentals, modest concert fees, and suggested donations help to cover the lease for The Maid, but FOOT hopes that business groups can be enticed to rent the space, too. Ted May, who recently signed on as FOOT's outreach coordinator, believes it can become an incubator for non-profits and businesses. "Takoma Park has a lot of small, home-based businesses," says the Takoma Park native, who works as a social media consultant. "The main interaction that those business owners have with people is electronic. The Maid can bring them together and help them to network on a more tangible level."

If all these visions are realized, some day The Maid might host a networking meeting at lunch and volunteer tutoring in the late afternoon. Then, with a few tables moved out of the way, it would become a post-work hangout for Metro commuters or venue for a poetry slam or concert at night. This summer, Chris Colvin will lead a music camp on behalf of the House of Musical Traditions. The possibilities seem endless.

If it sounds like The Maid is trying to be everything for everybody—well, that's sort of the point, said Brian Robinson. "So many spaces in society are becoming more segmented in the name of 'personalization' of the experience," he said. "We're kind of going against that grain."

To find out more about The Electric Maid, go to [www.electricmaid.org](http://www.electricmaid.org), or call Brian Robinson at 202-545-3980.



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8,

1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.

## Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. (by appointment only), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours move to Wednesday, same time.



Bruce Williams



BY MOSES A. WILDS, JR.  
LANDLORD-TENANT  
COORDINATOR

**15 Percent Penalty is Too High**

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding provisions in his lease that require him to pay a 15 percent late rental payment fee and which make him financially responsible for all repairs made in the rental unit during his tenancy.*

In accordance with Section 6.16.090, of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law, a landlord may have a late rental payment fee provision in a lease, but that it shall not exceed 5 percent of the

amount due for the rental period. A late rental payment may not be charged if the rent is received within ten days of the rent due date. If contesting the imposition of a late rent payment fee, the tenant must have written documentation confirming when the rent payment was mailed/submitted to the landlord.

Section 6.16.050.G. of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law states that the landlord is the responsible party for the payment of all repairs and maintenance of the rental unit. The landlord may not transfer this responsibility to the tenant unless the landlord is able to document that the repair resulted from negligence or misuse by the tenant.

Landlords and tenants should note that Section 6.16.020 of the city's law indicates that lease provisions which conflict with City law shall be unenforceable.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me at MosesW@takomgov.org.



**LIONS MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

On April 24, longtime member Keith Van Ness, left, of the Takoma Park Lions Club was honored as the club's MVP for his outstanding service to the TPLC and to the Takoma Park community. The event was the Lions Annual District 22-C Night, which was held at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Center in Waldorf, Md. With Van Ness is District Governor Bill Thomas.

Courtesy photo

**Whiffle Ball Tournament Kicks Off New League**

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is introducing an old sport with a new program this year: whiffle ball.

A Fourth of July tournament kicks things off, followed by a new Whiffle Ball League beginning July 11 and playing throughout the summer.

Calling it "an old-fashioned game that never goes out of style," Recreation staff say whiffle ball, which is played with a nine-inch plastic ball and a 32-inch plastic bat, requires no real diamond sports skills, but is fun for experienced baseball or softball players and novices alike. Because of the low level of skill required, teams can be made up of entire families or a mix of friends and neighbors. Teams are composed of youth and adults, from age 7 and older.

Billed as the perfect game to play between the parade and the fireworks display, the July 4th Whiffle Ball Tournament is being sponsored jointly by the Recreation

Department, the Fourth of July Committee and the Takoma Park Recreation Committee. Team registration began

April 26, but registrations will be accepted up until the day of play.

The tournament will use modified rules; there will be a maximum of five players on the field at one time. Cost to play is \$10 per team (minimum five players per team) and the games will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

To extend the tournament, a Family Whiffle Ball League is starting up. Recreation staff envision family picnics and casual competition every Sunday evening from 5-8 p.m., from July 11 through August 1. Registration is \$25 per team, with a minimum of five players per team.



For more information, contact the Recreation Department, 301-891-7290.



**Credit Management Workshops**

- Too much debt?
- Tired of bill collectors?
- Stressed over ability to make ends meet?

If you answered YES - Please register today for these two life-changing workshops!

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park

Dates: July 14 and July 28

Time: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Where: Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue

Cost: No cost, but pre-registration is required  
To register, call 301-891-7222

Class conducted by Christopher King - Certified Credit Counselor and Financial Consultant

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Computer Learning Center in the Community Center is staffed and open every weekday from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Computers available for resident use; wireless access throughout the building.



### Guarding the Neighborhood

Eighteen years ago, James Colwell painted the brilliantly colored, vibrantly animated mural, "Guardians of the Neighborhood," in the pavilion at the corner of Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues. Last month, he did a major touch-up, repainting the piece to brighten its effect and keep the artwork from showing its age.

"Guardians," which depicts a lively jazz club-type scene, is one of the most familiar of Takoma Park's public art pieces, as it is geographically central to the City at Takoma Junction. It is painted on the wall of what was originally a gas station, then a thrift shop; the structure is part of B.Y. Morrison Park, named for the Takoma Park azalea collector responsible for the "Azalea City" designation. The pavilion's columns are covered in ceramic tiles by Takoma Park artist John Hume; these also illustrate the town's quirky heritage, with representations of Roscoe the Rooster, Motorcat, and Root Boy Slim, among others.

Colwell, who is a professional piano restorer by trade, remembers that the mural stirred some controversy when it was new: he had to raise the neckline of the sensuous dancer on the right.

Photo by Laurie Stepp



### Play of Color

An examination of high-impact color by Juliet Arnaudo, Jennifer Brewer, Julie Hart, Soline Krug and Charla Wilkerson that displays the use of color and gives the public a first in-depth glimpse of the artists, right at the cutting edge of their maturing exploration. "Play of Color" will be on display in Gallery 3 and the Atrium Gallery from July 11 through September 11.

### Look In/Look Out, Portraits in Progress

The original artwork by members of Studio Downstairs/Create Arts Center, a therapeutically informed and progressive art studio program for adults living with post-traumatic stress syndrome and mental illness, will be on display in the Atrium Gallery through July 9.

### God Made Me Blind So That I Might See

In 1996, Mathew Kessler, a professional surgeon, became visually impaired at the age of 62. No longer able to operate, he discovered that limited vision in this material world can actually "open up the internal eye to one's soul." Kessler's sculpture and ceramics, described as "uplifting, thought-provoking, whimsical and spiritual" will be on display in Gallery 3 through July 19.

### Gallery Information

The Atrium Gallery, located on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fridays until 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gallery 3, located on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Our New Exhibitions Director

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Adam Dwight, local artist and Takoma Park resident, to the position of Exhibitions Director. In this role, Mr. Dwight will oversee the Commission's exhibitions program, serving as the primary contact for coordinating exhibitions, working with the Arts and Humanities Commission and others to solicit and review proposals, and assist exhibitors in logistical activities.

For more information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, by email at [SaraD@takomagov.org](mailto:SaraD@takomagov.org) or check online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

## Task Force Recommends Green Measures for City

By STEVE DAVIES  
CO-CHAIR, TASK FORCE  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

**P**urchasing street lights from PEPCO, hiring a sustainability coordinator and providing incentives for throwing out less trash are among the top recommendations of the Task Force on Environmental Action, which delivered its final report to the mayor and city council April 30.

The TFEA, whose 16 members were appointed by the mayor and council last year, met every two weeks from October through April to talk about how the city could make its own operations more environmentally friendly, and how it could encourage or incentivize residents to do the same.

The task force singled out about a dozen recommendations as "high priorities" for the city, and will formally present them to the City Council for discussion July 6. A short summary of the recommendations follows. None have been approved for implementation, and most would require an allocation of funding from City Council before moving forward.

*Work with other municipalities to purchase street lights from PEPCO, perhaps through a public-private partnership.* There are 1,700 street lights in Takoma Park owned and maintained by PEPCO, which charges the city for upkeep and electricity. The task force suggests the change could reduce the current cost of electricity and maintenance, estimated at \$227,500 in the just-approved budget, by 30 to 50 percent.

*By 2012, establish a financing mechanism (such as a public-private partnership) to provide cost-sharing and discounts on installation of energy efficiency upgrades in residents' homes.*

*Negotiate an agreement for residents to purchase renewable energy through a third-party supplier and county subsidies.*

*Amend existing City policy, which already*

*allows rent increases based on amortized costs of capital improvements, to also allow rent hikes for improvements in buildings' energy efficiency.*

*Establish a "rewards for recycling" program that would charge residents based on the amount of trash they generate, thus providing an incentive to reduce household waste. Currently, "there is no incentive to minimize waste generation, and no incentive other than a moral one to recycle," the report says.*

*Study the potential of selling compost made out of organic household waste, which would be collected at various locations.*

*Implement the transportation recommendations of the charrette for Takoma Junction, including a roundabout at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll avenues. Also, work with the State Highway Administration and the District of Columbia's Transportation Department to improve the timing of traffic lights to keep traffic moving.*

*Continue building retrofit projects to reduce stormwater runoff. Prioritize projects and expand the program, with particular attention paid to large blacktopped areas such as shopping centers.*

*Phase in a ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and implement an outreach campaign to educate residents about the pollution caused by similar types of lawn care equipment powered by two-stroke engines (edgers, trimmers and chainsaws). Consider establishing trade-in programs for gas-powered lawnmowers.*

*Come up with a greenhouse gas inventory to test the degree to which the city is meeting its previous commitments.*

*Expand the native tree planting program along City rights of way. Consider ways to turn University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue into tree-lined thoroughfares. Continue selling trees at a discount to residents and encourage planting on private*

*property.*

*Design a web site or series of web pages to publicize City sustainability efforts and promote sustainable practices by residents.*

The task force also recommends the City hire a sustainability coordinator as soon as feasible to oversee and coordinate environmental improvements.

Other task force recommendations include: enactment and enforcement of a strict anti-idling ordinance; allocation of a specific percentage of property tax receipts to green building/energy efficiency improvements; setting a goal to reduce greenhouse gases produced in the city by 10 percent every five years, beginning this year; promotion of solar co-operatives through installation of solar panels on City buildings; completion of the inventory of trees in the City; and allowing the arborist to focus on tree protection by shifting enforcement for other vegetation violations (bamboo, English ivy, for example) to the Housing and Community Development department.

The task force also recommends setting numerical goals for canopy cover with interim goals to be achieved every two years, and suggests the City Council consider prohibiting the use of chemical fertilizers and herbicides that do not degrade or otherwise disappear after they have accomplished the target task.

The Environmental Task Force report will be presented in full at the July 6 City Council meeting, and is available on line at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/tfea/index.html>.

Task Force members are: Nadine Bloch, Leandra Carrasco, Steve Davies (co-chair), Joe Edgell (co-chair), Shari Friedman, David Bristol Hunter, Sat Jiwan Ikle-Khalsa, Timothy Male, Elizabeth Marshall, Austin Meyermann, Terrill North, John Peterson, Emily Riddle, Scott Schang, Milford Sprecher and Catherine Tunis.

# July Recreation

## Camp Takoma

Ages 6 - 12

(In Grade 1 starting September 2010)

Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities and presenters related to each theme. Swimming once a week and a camp T-shirt are included in your fee. No camp July 5.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 6-9, Health and Fitness

July 12-16, Nature

July 19-23, Rock Star

July 26-30, Jolly Roger

August 2-6, Super Hero

August 9-13, Wet and Wild

TP resident \$100/week

Non-resident \$110/week

## Extended Care Options

*Before and After Care*

Extended care is available for families who want to sign up for additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play and sports. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Camp Takoma, Specialty Camps, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

Takoma Park Community Center

June 28-August 13.

Fee per week for Before Care, 7-9 a.m..

TP resident \$30/week

Non-resident \$40/week

Fee per week for After Care, 4-6 p.m.

TP resident \$30/week

Non-resident \$40/week

## Silver Foxes

### Grandparent/Grandchild Trip, College Park Aviation Museum

Have fun with your grandchildren this summer, and join us for this educational trip. The College Park Aviation Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, opened in 1998 on the grounds of the oldest continuously operating airport. College Park Airport, founded in 1909 when Wilbur Wright gave flight instructions to the first military aviators, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bring spending money for lunch in the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant. Seats available first to seniors with grandchildren. Extra seats open to seniors traveling alone.

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 27

\$3 Seniors

\$2 Child (Bring cash on 7/27)

Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280 to register by deadline 7/17.

### Senior Mediation Presentation

Special film presentation "Senior Mediation" and discussion led by Wolfgang Mergner. Refreshments will be served in the Senior Room prior to the film and discussion in the auditorium. No cost.

Friday, July 16

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Refreshments/Senior Room

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. - Film and discussion/Auditorium



### STYLE POINTS

This hitter is one of 96 kids enrolled on eight teams, filling the Recreation Department's T-ball program to capacity.

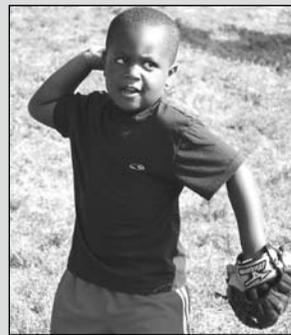
Photo by Debra Haiduven



### EYE ON THE BALL

Children like this one are going all out to learn the basics of T-ball this year. Games are held every Saturday morning at Belle Ziegler Park (formerly Jeque Park) and Ed Wilhelm Field.

Photo by Debra Haiduven



### SERIOUS BUSINESS

Even the smallest children are learning, from the 24 volunteer coaches and safety monitors involved in the Recreation Department's T-ball League.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

## Rookie Sports Camp

Ages 3-5

A great way to introduce your child to the sports of soccer, T-ball, and kickball. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment and sports are played through a series of games and activities designed to ensure learning and, most importantly, fun. No previous experience is required in any sport to participate. All the sports promote hand-eye-coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. Maximum 15, minimum eight.

Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon

July 12-16

July 26-30

TP resident \$70/session

Non-resident \$75/session

### On Stage: Footlights

Ages 4-6

Learning is about doing, so we're going to get on stage! Each day will start with physical, vocal, imagination and focus-building warm-ups. Create characters, explore improv through drama games, and learn songs, blocking and choreography to musical numbers. At the end of camp the students will perform storybook theater and work on two musical numbers from a Broadway show. There is a \$10 materials fee paid directly to the instructor on the first day of camp. Maximum 13, minimum 10. Instructor Gretchen Weigel.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon

July 12-16

TP resident \$150

Non-resident \$160

### On Stage: Spotlight

Ages 5-8

Get on the stage and get to work acting, singing and dancing! Each day starts out with physical, vocal, imagination and focus-building warm-ups. Create and develop characters, explore improv and perform extended improv, engage in drama games, learn songs. Work on blocking and choreographing musical numbers. A revue of the students' work will be held on the last day of camp. There is a \$15 materials fee paid to the instructor on the first day of camp. Maximum 13, minimum 10. Instructor Gretchen Weigel.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 2-6

TP resident \$210

Non-resident \$230

## Visual Arts Camp

Ages 11-14

Have fun and express yourself through color, shape, drawing and design. Each session includes a totally new group of various media and activities. Sharpen your drawing skills, explore new materials and exercise your imagination with inspiring art projects. Two hours of drawing in the morning using graphite, pen and ink, colored pencils, charcoal pencils, pastels, oil pastels or conte crayon, etc. followed by two plus hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. Media such as watercolor painting, sumi-e, mixed media painting, texture and found object assemblage will be explored. Trip to the pool, art related movies, access to the game room during the day and outdoor art adventures are all included in what we hope will be a really memorable summer experience. All materials are included in the fee. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Art Room, Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

July 12-16

TP resident \$280/session

Non-resident \$300/session

## Summer Dungeons and Dragons

Ages 9-18

A bit more fast and loose than our usual sessions. We'll try high level characters, or playing as monsters or super heroes, World War II zombie apocalypse— whatever people are most interested in. Feel free to bring a snack. Instructor Dave Burbank. Maximum 15, minimum five. Four weeks.

Lilac Room, Takoma Park Community Center

Thurs. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Session 1, July 1, 8, 15, 22

Session 2, July 29, August 5, 12, 19

TP resident \$35/session

Non-resident \$40/session

## Summer Pre-Teen Tuesdays

Ages 10-12

We will be heading to a different trip location each day. MLK Pool, Laurel Roller skating, Bohrer Park, Tidal Basin Paddle Boating, College Park Bowling and Cascade Lake. Register for one trip or for all six. Space is limited. Contact the Rec. Dept for individual cost of each trip.

# Takoma Park Recreation Specialty Camps

The camps listed below are specialty camps. Camps runs from 9 a.m. to noon. After lunch, campers will participate in recreational activities with a larger camp group to include art projects, sports, swimming and fun!

## The Sound of Learning Music Recording Camp

*Ages 9-12*

Participants will explore music production, recording, performing, and more! The camp will instruct young people on the basics of recording, which includes but is certainly not limited to:

- The use of a mixing console and its various components
- Intro to sound/ music mixing theory
- Microphone placement for various instruments
- Various effects, including equalization, reverb, compression, etc.

Each student will have an opportunity to become familiar with each step of the recording process, and will work together to mix a recording. Instructors Wreh Jalla and Rita Moreno. Maximum 10, minimum five.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 26-30

August 2-6

TP resident \$140/session

Non-resident \$150/session

## Super Sports Camp

*Ages 6-8 and Ages 9-12*

This camp will feature instruction and games in different sports from around the world such as: soccer, team handball, volleyball, badminton, lacrosse, tennis, flag football and more. A World Cup and Olympics competition will be held at the end of the camp. This camp offers participants the chance to experience a large variety of sports and daily sports challenges that are played all across the world. Maximum 10, minimum eight.

Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ages 9-12, July 6-9

Ages 6-8, July 19-23

Ages 6-8, August 9-13

TP residents \$140/session

Non-resident \$150/session

## Awesome Art Camp

*Ages 6-8*

Looking for a way to express yourself this summer? Create one-of-a-kind art projects from paper, tissue paper, clay, glue, string and a variety of other found materials. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Mama Eltsah.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 6-9

TP resident \$140

Non-resident \$150

## Way Off Broadway Theater Camp

*Ages 6-8 and Ages 9-12*

Develop your talent through movement, skits and more. Each day will start out with creative theatre games to get your creative juices flowing. Topics covered will be the auditioning process, improvisation, parts of the stage, blocking and characterization. Daily rehearsals will culminate with a performance at the end of the week. Maximum 10, minimum five. Instructor Carey Antoszewski.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ages 6-8, July 6-9

Ages 9-12, August 9-13

TP resident \$140/session

Non-resident \$150/session

## Science Explorers Camp

*Ages 6-8*

Explore the wonders of science from your back yard to Sligo Creek. We will examine the properties of water, find out how pressure works, make ice cream the scientific way and explore Sligo Creek with your senses. Learn about the ecosystems in Sligo Creek and observe the animals and plants that survive there. Maximum 10, minimum five.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Session 1, July 19-23

Session 2, July 26-30

TP resident \$140/session

Non-resident \$150/session

## Dance Through the Decades Camp

*Ages 9-12*

Take a journey through time learning the different dance styles and dance culture through the decades, starting with the '50s and ending with today's dance style. Learn a new dance every day. Focus is on the process of dance and the elements of dance. No prior dance experience is necessary. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Mama El'tsah.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

structor Lois Schoenbrun.

Dance Room, Takoma Park Community Center

Saturdays 1-2 p.m.

July 10-August 21

TP resident \$75/person

Non-resident \$85/person

## Body Sculpting/Pilates

*Ages 16 and older*

A combination of precision body toning, stretching and core strengthening focusing on exercising the whole body to reach your goal of a leaner, stronger body. Light hand weights are used for strengthening and toning the arms, hips and thighs. This class is the ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign their body. Students are required to bring their own mat and hand weights. Four weeks. Instructor June Kimbrugh-Thornton. Maximum 25, minimum five. Co-sponsored by Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Takoma Park Recreation Center, New Hampshire Avenue

Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

July 14-August 4

\$40/session

## Yoga for Beginners

*Ages 18 and older*

Come discover how to work with your body in a safe, gentle, non-competitive way which promotes increased flexibility, strength, balance and awareness. This class will introduce and develop the foundation of standing poses and basic actions in forward bends, back bends and twists. Each pose

July 19-23

TP resident \$140

Non-resident \$150

## Cartooning and Manga Camp

*Ages 9-12*

Using a sketch pad and your imagination create whimsical pictures like manga, and cartoons. Work on developing the whole story from beginning to the end. An exhibit will be held at the community center after the camp to display campers' work. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Rain Young.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

August 2-6

TP resident \$140

Non-resident \$150

## Golf and Tennis Camp

*Ages 9-12*

An exciting combination specialty camp to assist in learning technique and enhancing skills. Focus will be on enhancing fundamentals, strategy, practice techniques, and court and course etiquette/management in golf and tennis. Our goal is to ensure that each camper is safe, builds skills and knowledge of golf and tennis and comes away with a memorable and fun experience. Maximum 10, minimum five.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 12-16

TP resident \$140/session

Non-resident \$150/session

## Creative Movement Dance Camp

*Ages 6-8*

Express yourself using dance elements -- body, energy, space and time -- for storytelling. Create a story through dance with emphasis on freedom of expression, learning the process of beginning, middle and end. Work on problem resolution and learn different dance elements. No prior dance experience is necessary. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Mama El'tsah.

Takoma Park Community Center

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 12-16

TP resident \$140

Non-resident \$150

July 6-August 10

Tuesdays, noon-4 p.m.

\$55 includes all trips

## Teens On The Move Summer Fun!

The "On The Move" Teen Program is exclusively for teens 13-16 years old. On a weekly basis this program combines a perfect balance of experiential learning, community service, sports and fun activities. In addition teens will be exposed to weekly career development workshops including but not limited to STEM (Science Technology Engineer and Mathematics), forensic science and archaeology. Teens will also receive student service learning hours while meeting the needs of the community and environment.

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

July 6-July 23

TP resident \$110/week

Non-resident \$120/week

## Taekwondo

*Ages 4 and older*

The Korean martial art of Taekwondo promotes fitness and strength in a fun and social environment. Taekwondo (foot-hand-way) is known for beautiful and powerful kicks. Students learn self-defense and practice drills, forms and sparring. The tenets of Taekwondo – courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit – are emphasized. Adults are welcome to register with their child. There is a one-time fee paid to the instructor at the first class (non-refundable) for uniform (\$40 children, \$50 for adult). Seven weeks. In-

can be modified to accommodate all physical conditions. Please come with comfortable clothing (best to wear tights or shorts so instructor can view knees) and an empty stomach. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five. Six weeks.

Dance Studio, Takoma Park Community Center

Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m.

July 20-August 24

TP resident \$65

Non-resident \$75

## Yoga and Meditation, Intermediate

*Ages 18 and older*

Iyengar yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment so that the flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. This class will include inversions and more advanced poses and an understanding of basic alignment. The practice of postures in yoga is traditionally a preparation for meditation. Some time for seated meditation will be included at the end of class (chairs and cushions are available) Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five. Six weeks.

Dance Studio, Takoma Park Community Center

Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm

July 20-August 24

TP resident \$65

Non-resident \$75

**TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY  
CALENDAR**

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. For a few events, it is encouraged, but not required, as noted. You can register online by going to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

**Community Circle Time**

Every Tuesday  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

**Spanish Circle Time**

Every Thursday  
10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza  
*Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.*

**Bedtime Stories**

Monday, July 12, 7 p.m.  
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in their half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

**Comics Jam**

Wednesday, July 14, 3 p.m.  
Come read some comics with us! We'll show comics on the big screen; bring your favorites to share.

**Friends Reading Group**

Thursday July 15, 7 p.m.  
"No Great Mischief" by Alistair MacLeod  
Hydrangea Room (see article)

**Summer Quest Campfire**

Monday, July 19, 7 p.m.  
Crafts, camp songs and stories. Kids will leave with the makings for "s'mores." *Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.*

**Friends of the Library Board Meeting**

Tuesday, July 20, 7:45 p.m.

**Game-O-Rama**

Saturday, July 24, 1-3 p.m.  
Kids ages 4-8 are invited to play games with us at the Library. Registration encouraged.

**Junior Banned Books Club**

Monday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.  
For kids in third, fourth and fifth grade. Discuss "Matilda," by Roald Dahl. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the main Library desk. *Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.*

**Banned Books Club**

Monday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Award-winning book club for middle- and high-school students. Our book is "Fallen Angels" by Walter Dean Myers. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the main Library desk.  
*Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.*

# Circling Up the Smallest Readers

By KAREN MACPHERSON

If you're looking for an entertaining and educational time with your little ones at the Library, Community Circle Time may be it. Every Tuesday morning from 10-10:30 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m., dozens of babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups gather to sing songs and rhymes, learn some fingerplays, hear a story, and do lots of movement exercises. Think "Hokey Pokey," "Head and Shoulders," "I'm a Little Teapot," and the current favorite, "The Rock N' Roll Freeze Dance" (you stop – or "freeze" – whenever the music stops).

It can be a wild and crazy scene, yet all the activities are designed to help young children build important pre-reading skills. The main focus is on having fun in the Library but the librarians like to say that Community Circle Time is "play with a purpose."

The Library has offered Community Circle Time for several decades. For many years it was called the "Neighborhood Circle Time," but was recently renamed "Community Circle Time" to reflect the wider range of people who now attend each week.

It's important to note that the program is a "Circle Time," not a "Story Time." That's because the librarian reads only one carefully-chosen book. A traditional circle time, which focuses mostly on songs, rhymes, fingerplays and movement exercises, seems to work better with such a range of ages (infants to age 5) and such a big crowd.

These songs, rhymes, fingerplays and movement exercises are fun, but each also helps children build one of the important pre-reading skills.

Even with this serious underlying purpose, however, the goal of the Community Circle Time is to show kids – and their grown-ups -- that going to the library is an enjoyable activity.

Community Circle Time has one key rule: grown-ups must participate. This is a program where adults are required to be with their child (or children) and do all the songs, rhymes, fingerplays and movement exercises together. Adults also are asked to model good listening when the librarian reads the story, which comes in the middle of the Circle Time.

Each week, a different book is showcased in Community Circle Time, and the books are selected with great care. The books can't be too long or too short and the story must flow fairly quickly to keep the attention of the youngest readers. In addition, the books chosen are ones where the audience can participate in the story; for example, kids and grown-ups are asked to keep up a clapping "beat" during a reading of the wonderfully rhythmic "Jazz Baby" by Lisa Wheeler.

Because little ones love – and learn



Children's Librarian Karen MacPherson holds the City's smallest readers spellbound at Circle Time, held every Tuesday morning.

Photo by Laurie Stepp

**Playing with a Purpose**

Six key skills have been identified by the American Library Association in its "Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library" program, which is based on the latest research on how children's brains develop.

**These skills are:**

- **Print Awareness:** Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and knowing how to follow the words on a page;
- **Print Motivation:** Being interested in and enjoying books;
- **Vocabulary:** Knowing the names of things;
- **Narrative Skills:** Being able to describe things and events and tell stories;
- **Phonological Awareness:** Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words;
- **Letter Knowledge:** Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere.

through – repetition, Community Circle Time has a fixed structure. Within that structure, however, the Circle Time features new rhymes, songs and fingerplays each week.

Community Circle Time begins with some greeting rhymes and songs, with everyone seated. Then everyone gets up and moving for the "dance" segment, including the wildly popular "Hokey Pokey." Participants then sit down and do some fingerplays and rhymes and sing some good morning songs with Reynard, the Library's friendly fox mascot.

At that point, everyone should be ready to listen, and that's when the story is read. Next come birthday salutes to all those

(kids and adults!) celebrating birthdays that week. Then it's time to stand up again, with participants doing various movement songs and rhymes, including "The Grand Old Duke of York," "I'm a Little Teapot" and the most popular movement song, "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're Going to the Moon!"

Community Circle Time concludes with everyone sitting back down to do a few last rhymes and songs, including the ever-popular "Monkeys," before singing the "Good-bye Song" and finally wrap it up with "Roly Poly."

Yes, it's a wild and crazy time! But many find it's a great way to spend time with little ones at the Library..

## For Quick City Service ... Use My TKPK

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs [www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer\\_service](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service)

**READING FOR THE ROAD**

To lessen the tedium of those long road trips you may be taking this summer, the Library has lots of brand new books on CD, with a variety of styles meant to spark every taste and interest.

**Among them are:****“Winter Garden”**

by Kristin Hannah

“...at once an epic love story and an intimate portrait of women poised at the crossroads of their lives.” [Publisher]

**“What the Dog Saw”**

by Malcolm Gladwell

The best-selling author of “The Tipping Point,” “Blink” and “Outliers” brings us “...yet another example of the buoyant spirit and unflagging curiosity that have made him our most brilliant investigator of the hidden extraordinary.” [Publisher]

**“Dead in the Family”**

by Charlaine Harris

The newest in the “New York Times” best-selling Sookie Stackhouse series

**“Oprah: A Biography”**

by Kitty Kelley

The real Oprah is revealed in this meticulously researched new tell-all biography

**“The Double Comfort Safari Club”**

by Alexander McCall Smith

The newest in the adventures of Botswana’s leading detective Mma Ramotswa

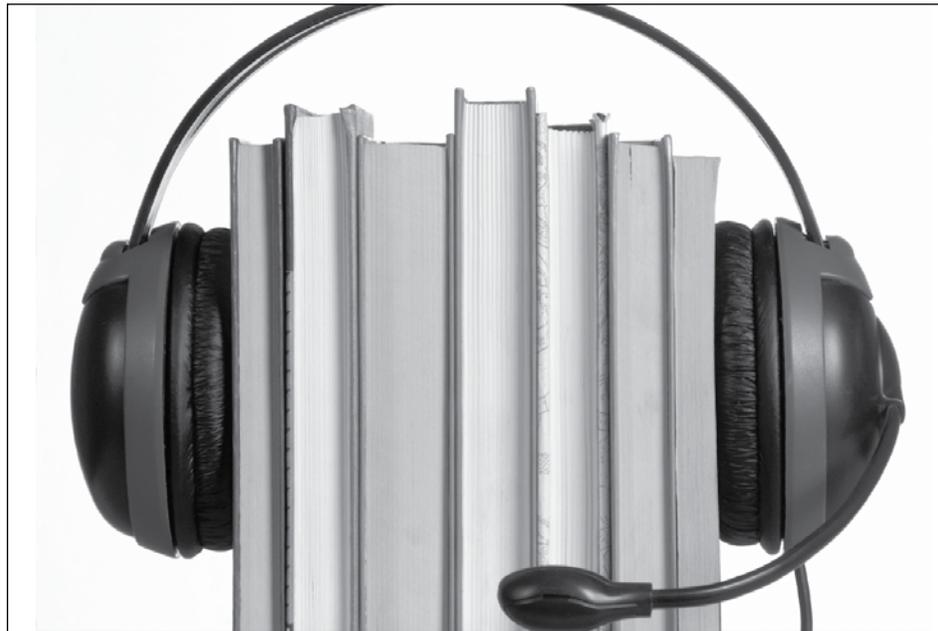
**“The Girl who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest”**

by Stieg Larsson.

The spellbinding third and final novel in this bestselling trilogy

**“Half Broke Horses”**

by Jeannette Walls



# Summer Listening Favorites

The author of “The Glass Castle” “...brings us the story of her grandmother, told in a first person voice that is authentic, irresistible, and triumphant.” [Publisher]

**“The Lake Shore Limited”**

by Sue Miller

“Sue Miller at her dazzling best..” [Publisher]

**“Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter”**

by Seth Grahame-Smith

The author of “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies” reveals “the hidden history behind the Civil War, while uncovering the role vampires played in the birth, growth, and near-death of our nation.” [Publisher]

**“The Lovely Bones”**

by Alice Sebold

A novel filled with both tragic loss, suspense and hope – the “New York Times” called it “a stunning achievement.”

**“Writing Jane Austen”**

by Elizabeth Aston

A fledgling author is given the opportunity to complete a newly discovered but half-finished manuscript by the legendary Jane Austen.

**“Savor the Moment”**

by Nora Roberts

The author’s newest romantic novel about three childhood friends who are wedding planners.

**“The Shadow of Your Smile”**

by Mary Higgins Clark

A novel of suspense about a family fortune, questions of inheritance, and the looming threat of murder.

**“The Professional”**

by Robert Parker

The newest Spenser detective yarn. Blackmail turns to murder when a lawyer hires Spenser to investigate the deaths of rich wives who share a secret in common.

**“Deception”**

by Johnathan Kellerman

“Allegations of rape, assault and possibly murder at one of L.A.’s most prestigious prep schools make for a social and political time bomb.” [Publisher]

**“Beatrice and Virgil”**

by Yann Martel

The author of “Life of Pi” has created another highly original work that raises haunting and profound questions “... about life and art, truth and deception, responsibility and complicity.” [Publisher]

**“Miracle on the 17th Green”**

by James Patterson

A miracle happens when a disconnected man suddenly, amazingly begins golfing like a pro.

**“Blockade Billy”**

by Stephen King

Blockade Billy, perhaps the greatest golfer the world has ever known, “had a secret darker than any pill or injection that might cause a scandal in sports today.” In this never-before published novel, Stephen King writes a haunting story about baseball- the sport he loves most.



## LIBRARY Briefs

**Reading Around the Campfire**

Our annual Summer Quest “Campfire” is scheduled for Monday, July 19 at 7 p.m. No, we aren’t creating a real fire in the Library! But we’ll gather around a tissue-paper-and-logs fire to sing camp songs and hear some stories. We’ll start the evening out by doing a simple camp craft or two, and all participants will go home with a bag containing the makings for a couple of that popular camp treat called “s’mores.” Because we may be telling some scary stories, this program is aimed at kids ages 5 and up; younger children are welcome to attend all or part of the program with full adult supervision. To ensure we have enough materials (and “s’mores” makings!)

for everyone, we ask you to register for the program. To register, go to [www.takoma-park.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takoma-park.info/library/registration.html) or call us at 301-891-7259.

**Comics and Graphic Novels**

Kids: do you like to read comics and graphic novels? Come to our monthly “Comics Jam” program, which will take place at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14. We’ll use our special ELMO projector to help us read the comics on a big screen. We’ll share some of our favorites, and encourage kids to bring some of their own favorites to share. No registration required.

**Spanish Circle Extended**

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, our popular “Spanish Circle Time” program will – for the first time – continue through the summer. Join Señora Geiza every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. for a lively program designed to teach basic Spanish words and phrases. Meanwhile, “Petites Chansons,” also known as French Circle Time, will take a summer hiatus in July and August. But Madame Marie will

be back on September 11 to lead young participants and their grown-ups in French song and rhymes.

**Friends Group Reads through Summer**

The Friends Reading Group has chosen Canadian novelist Alistair MacLeod’s family chronicle, “No Great Mischief” (2000) for its next discussion on Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

“This novel’s narrator is Alexander MacDonald, an orthodontist in Toronto. He relates the history of the MacDonald family in Canada. Calum Ruadh MacDonald, with 12 children, a son-in-law, and a devoted dog, arrived on Cape Breton Island in 1779, and established a Gaelic-speaking tribe that survived and expanded without ever forgetting its history.” [Atlantic Monthly]

“MacLeod’s rich, unpretentious style never hits a false note...He writes with stunning precision about the way these people build their own legends in the branches of triumph and tragedy. Before long, their family tree seems to include us too.” [Economist, June 17, 2000]

A limited number of copies of “No Great

Mischief” are on reserve at the Takoma Park Library for those who wish to attend the July 15 discussion. All are welcome.

The Friends “Great Big Book Club” resumes in the fall, with a four part discussion of “The Brothers Karamazov.” The translation of Dostoevsky’s “richest and most capacious book” [Washington Post] chosen for the discussions is by Richard Pevar and Larissa Volokhonsky. The “New York Review of Books” said of this translation, “It may well be that Dostoevsky’s [world], with all of its resourceful energies of life and language, is only now – and through the medium of this [new] translation – beginning to come home to the English-speaking reader.”

Discussions will open on October 7 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center with a lecture by University of Maryland Professor Cindy Martin. This event is open to all.

A limited number of copies of the book are on reserve at the Takoma Park Library for those who truly intend to participate in the discussions. For those who would like to purchase their own copy, it is available in paperback for \$18 (Farrar ISBN-13-978-0-374-52837-90).

## No Vacation from Crime

# Secure Your Home Over Summer Holidays

Summer vacation time has arrived, and the Takoma Park Police Department wants to remind residents of the many ways they can secure their homes and minimize the risk of burglary while they are away.

- Put your mail on hold or have someone pick it up for you daily.
- Put your newspaper on hold or have someone pick it up for you daily. Newspapers accumulating in your driveway or on your porch indicates your absence.
- Put your lights on a timer. Timers come in a wide variety from a programmable, computerized home to a

simple plug-in for a lamp. Have two or three rooms equipped so the lights go on and off at various times. Also leave the light over the stove on all the time, as the kitchen is one room that tends to have lights on most.

- Don't leave a message on your answering machine that you are away.
- Let a neighbor know where you are going and leave a contact number. If you feel comfortable, leave a key with that neighbor.

If no one will be staying at your house while you are away, you can also request that the Takoma Park Police provide a vacant house check-in service. If you are

eligible, a police officer will visit your home once a day during your absence and inspect the premises for any signs of suspicious activity. This service is available only for single-family dwellings, duplexes and town homes where occupants will be absent for four or more days, with a maximum of 30 days. No vacant houses without furniture or other property will be checked. No rental houses occupied by other renters will be checked.

Residents can pick up a copy of the Vacant House Check Form from the police department, or find it at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/propertyprotection.html](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/propertyprotection.html). The form can be faxed to the Dispatch Office at 301-891-3284 or residents may call in requests at 301-270-1100.

## New Traffic Enforcement Officer Assigned

In an effort to keep streets safe for motor traffic and pedestrians, the Takoma Park Police Department created a new, full-time traffic enforcement officer position on May 8. The position is funded by the Safe Speed Program, utilizing revenue collected from the speed cameras installed last year.

The responsibilities of new position, filled by Cpl. Michelle Holmes, a nine-year member of the police department, focus solely on traffic enforcement, targeting known problem areas within the City. Holmes will be expected to:

- respond to traffic complaints and conduct enforcement details in problem areas;
- conduct Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement to keep drunk drivers off the roads with saturation patrols in designated areas during peak hours. Saturation patrols involve an increased enforcement effort, targeting a specific area, to identify and arrest alcohol-impaired drivers;
- conduct advanced collision investigations (handling collisions involving serious injury and pedestrian collisions);
- investigate departmental and other government-involved vehicle collisions;
- deploy and manage the use of the speed trailer, the department's portable speed gauge; and
- act as a liaison with the State Highway Administration on region-wide traffic safety programs.

Holmes will also be responsive to residents concerned about traffic safety. She can be reached at 301-891-7101, x 5683 or [michelleh@takomagov.org](mailto:michelleh@takomagov.org).

## Police Honor Outstanding Officers, Civilians

The Takoma Park Police Department announced its annual officer and civilian awards last month.

The 2009 Officer of the Year is Detective Private First Class Charles Hoetzel. Hoetzel, who joined the department on March 3, 2008, was selected for overall outstanding performance of duties as an officer and his dedication to the Department in numerous additional tasks, including his role as detective in the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). His teamwork, persistence and efforts to take felons off the streets to ensure the safety of others was particularly noted, as was his high caseload: 117 cases during 2009, including robbery, burglary, sexual assault, child abuse, theft from auto and others. He was closely involved with solving the sexual assault case in Sligo Creek Park

last November.

For more about Hoetzel, see the article in the "Newsletter," May 2010.

Awards were also given to the Civilians of the Year: Leo Mangum, Property and Evidence Manager, and Catherine Plevy, Executive Assistant and Public Information Officer in the Office of the Chief. A number of other officers and civilians in the police department were honored at the Takoma Park Police Awards banquet June 11. They are as follows:

### Life-Saving Medal

D/Pfc. Charles Hoetzel, Sgt. Andrew John, Cpl. Cynthia Conrad, Cpl. Bobby Rodriguez, Pfc. Eric Mueller

### Supervisor of the Year

Sgt. Richard Skibicki

### Civilians of the Year

Leo Mangum, Catherine Plevy

### Unit Citation - Safe Speed

Sgt. Richard Skibicki, Cpl. Doug Malarkey

### First Place Shooter

Lt. Richard Cipperly

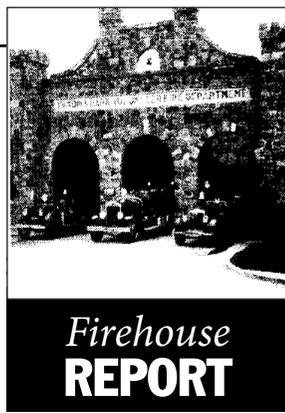
### Come-back Officer of the Year

Sgt. Tyrone Collington

### Chief's Special Recognition

Cpl. Michelle Holmes

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 318 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,382 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,700 this year. Totals for 2009 were 323 and 1,145 respectively, for a total of 1,468, representing an increase of 232 incidents.



By JIM JARBOE

### Takoma Park VFD Graduate

On May 7, new member Julio Lengua was one of 43 new volunteers from throughout the county that graduated from a ten-week VBOC (Volunteer Basic Orientation Course). The graduation ceremony was held at the Public Safety Training Academy. Julio received a certificate and uniform ribbon for completing the course.



### All Fireworks Are Still Illegal

So, let's enjoy the holiday celebration and let the professionals handle the fireworks. Please, watch them from a safe distance and be safe. Don't let a tragedy mar your July Fourth.

### Keeping your family safe from fire

- Do you have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area?
- For the best protection install interconnected smoke alarms in each bedroom and throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Do your smoke alarms work? Do you test them at least once a month and replace batteries at least once a year? Consider installing some alarms with a "long-life" (10-year) battery. These alarms must also be tested at least once a month.
- Does everyone in your home know the sound of your smoke alarms?
- Do you have alarms with flashing lights for people who are deaf or hard of hearing?
- Are any smoke alarms in your home more than 10 years old? If so, replace them.
- Does your family have a home fire escape plan, and do you practice it every six months?
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home. Sprinklers can contain or put out a fire in less time than it takes the fire department to arrive.



### Certified 'Sitters

On June 7, 12 girls and boys completed a five-week Baby Sitting Training Course sponsored by the Takoma Park VFD and the Recreation Department. The course covered infant and child care, fire safety, first aid, CPR and personal safety. Assisting course coordinator/instructor Jim Jarboe were Alexis and Shannon Egan, and Corporal Greg Wolf, TPPD.

**Sitting, left to right, Neshia Ruther, Anna Hukill, George Hawkins, Coleman Cunningham, Joseph Maher. Standing, left to right, Eleanor Linafelt, Ellie Struewing, Bajazit Alickovic, Dio Cramer, Emma Cohen, Isabella Calingaert, Tyrie Hendrix.**

# New Playgroups Gear Up for Summer

By Virginia Myers

This summer, playtime means drawing with sidewalk chalk, blowing soap bubbles and skipping rope – idyllic childhood pleasures that the Takoma Park Play Committee wants to be sure can be savored by everyone in the City. The year-old organization is sending volunteers out into the City's parks to offer these activities and more at Traveling Playgroups, every Monday and Thursday from 9:45 a.m. to noon, from July 5 through August 5. The series of 10 sessions, funded with \$500 from Takoma Park's small community grant program, is free to City residents and relies on volunteers (teens are particularly encouraged to volunteer, and can get more information on the web site, [www.takomaplays.org](http://www.takomaplays.org)). Geared for children from tots to about age 8, participants must attend with an adult.

The Traveling Playgroups supplement the existing Community Playtime sessions, held every Monday (except holidays) from 10 a.m. to noon at Heffner Community Center (42 Oswego Ave.) and sponsored by the Recreation Department. Geared for younger children and their parents and/or caregivers, these involve open play, snack time and circle time with a group activity (for more information, see [www.takomaplaytime.org](http://www.takomaplaytime.org)).

The new playgroups are designed to build community, familiarize residents with their local playgrounds, and reach those otherwise unable to afford summer camps. Participants will get "passports" that will be stamped at each playgroup, and those with a certain number of stamps will get a prize during Play Day, scheduled for September 25.

This Play Day is a central event for the committee, and this year will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. September 25 at Takoma Park Middle School. Activities will include tot tennis lessons, face painting, ongoing games and a dress-up parade as well as local musicians and possibly dance. New this year are yoga sessions from Willow Street Yoga, and organizers hope to include art projects that will be mounted around the City. The event is funded with a \$500 grant from Takoma Foundation.

Already, Takoma Park is a "Playful City," a designation the Play Committee obtained in 2009 from Kaboom!, a non-profit advocacy organization that builds playgrounds and hopes to secure a place to play within



Lucy Hanisco loves to play, so she's right at home with other members of Takoma Park's Play Committee. The group has organized playgroups at parks around the city this summer, and will hold its second annual Play Day in the fall

Photo by Mary Hanisco

## Traveling Playgroups

- Explore new playgrounds or revisit favorites
- Play games and do arts and crafts
- Fill out a passport of playgroup visits and win a prize at Play Day on Sept. 25
- Enjoy music and circle time
- Suitable for toddlers up to about age 8

**Unless it's pouring, we're playing!**

[takomaplays.org](http://takomaplays.org)

**Monday, July 5**, Westmoreland Park\*

**Thursday, July 8**, Belle Ziegler/Jeque Park\*

**Monday, July 12**, Spring Park\*

**Thursday, July 15**, Jackson-Boyd Park\*

**Monday, July 19**, Heffner Park

**Thursday, July 22**, Opal Daniels Park

**Monday, July 26**, Sligo Creek Park

**Thursday, July 29**, Hillwood Manor Park

**Monday, Aug. 2**, Becca Lily Park\*

**Thursday, Aug. 5**, Forest Park\*

**All dates**, 9:45 a.m. – noon

*Dates marked with \* include music by Mr. Gabe*

walking distance of every American child. The City's intentional "agenda for play" qualified it for the "Playful City" designation. In addition to myriad Recreation Department programs and long-established sports leagues, the City also hosts a weekly Intergenerational Strategy Games Club at Victory Tower, the senior living center on Carroll Avenue. Every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m., teenagers and adults join older residents – some in their 90s – for all sorts of board games, including Rummikub,

bridge, spades, Blokus, and Oh Heck. The event, which predates the Play Committee (it has been running since 2007), involves an average of two dozen people each night, including some from the Play Committee.

The Play Committee hopes to share these sorts of events along with newer ones through its web site, [takomaplays.org](http://takomaplays.org), which also includes articles about the value of play and linked sites that help families continue to play together.



## NOTICE OF FINAL ACTION Administrative Regulation Regarding Installation and Operation of Parking Meters

The December 2009 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation regarding installation and operation of parking meters. The regulation sets forth a process for the City Manager to establish new parking meter zones, change the location or designation of existing parking meter zones, increase or decrease the number of metered parking spaces within an established zone, and to establish or change the hours or days of operation and the rate for parking within a parking meter zone.

The notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation was published in accordance with the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code) to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The notice stated that the proposed regulation was available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office. No public comments have been received by the City Clerk's Office since the notice appeared. This notice is to inform residents that the final regulation will become effective on July 19, 2010.

## Takoma Park Adopts New Hours of Operation

As of July 1, 2010, City buildings will adopt new hours. The change is the result of cost-saving measure in the recently passed budget. The new hours are as follows:

### Takoma Park Community Center

Mon. -Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.\*  
Friday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Saturday hours remain the same, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sunday - building is closed

### Computer Center

Monday through Friday, 2-8 p.m.  
Saturday, noon-6 p.m.  
Sunday, building is closed

### Takoma Park Recreation Center (on New Hampshire Ave)

Monday-Friday, 2:30-9 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Weight Room Only  
Sunday, building is closed.

\*Will remain open for City Council meetings on Mondays.



## City TV Features Jazz Fest, Covers Parade

The Takoma Park Jazz Fest, on June 13, was a smorgasbord of jazz music, from bebop to blues – and, despite soaring temperatures in the 90s, music lovers from all over the area came to groove at the festival grounds in Old Town Takoma. Tune in to City TV this month and you'll hear some of the best acts, including the trumpet of Jeremy Pelt, the flute of Bradley Leighton, the drums of Chuck Redd, and many more.

Snapshots, those mini-features that delve into the details of so many bits of Takoma Park activities and services, this month will feature the opening of the new auditorium in the community center, with its myriad musical and literary shows; the popular Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge; and the unveiling of a new mosaic at Rolling Terrace Elementary. The mosaic was the first project funded through the City's Small Community Grant program.

This month, City TV will have its cameras rolling as it covers the Independence Day Parade, beginning at 10 a.m. at Takoma Junction and winding down Carroll Avenue, Eastern, and Maple. Come and enjoy the parade with us.

If you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org). And remember, if you'd just like an announcement placed on the electronic bulletin board, you can advertise your activities there as well. For more information, the same number and email apply.



**Back in the Swing**

The familiar face of Carolyn Pinkard, a crossing guard at Piney Branch Elementary School, was back on the job last month. Pinkard, who for 37 years has worked in various capacities for the Takoma Park Police Department and has been a crossing guard since 2006, was hit by a car on January 26 and suffered a fractured right foot. She returned to work May 26, just in time to fit in a few weeks before the end of the school year. Pinkard, whose foot continues to heal, hopes to return to the job in the fall.

Photo by Laurie Stepp

**WALGREENS**

continued from page 1

economic stability of established larger businesses and substantial residential development. “We want to retain the area’s international character while expanding the ability to compete in a wider market, with a broader economic diversity of customers,” says City Planner Ilona Blanchard. Some projects will allow planners to advise and register City preference on how such development takes place.

Business owners in Takoma-Langley seem curious about what will happen once Walgreens is established. Three pharmacies are already in business at the intersection: Rite Aid, CVS, and Langley Park Pharmacy, a small business in the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue business building. Co-owner Marilyn Crandon-Enyi, a pharmacist who runs the shop with her husband, Ike Enyi, also a pharmacist, is not worried about competition.

“We have a client base,” she says,

noting that much of her business comes from the doctors’ offices in the building. The 11-year-old Langley Park Pharmacy also delivers prescriptions and plans to continue that service to such locations as Victory Towers and the Franklin Square apartments, where many of its elderly customers live. “We like to say we give that personal touch, because it’s a Mom and Pop store,” says Crandon-Enyi.

City Councilmember Fred Schultz (Ward 6), who has followed the Walgreens development closely, says most of his constituents are supportive of the new store. “I think people around here are quite happy about it,” he says. Schultz himself is hopeful that Walgreens will attract more developer interest in the area. “The mere fact that a large corporate entity like Walgreens is willing to invest in a new store in the Crossroads area is a real vote of confidence in the economic strength of this area,” he says. “I would expect . . . other developers and property owners are going to take note and that will have

some positive influence on their desire to improve their properties. Whether it’s just to remodel and upgrade or literally redevelop. . . It’s a step in the right direction.”

Walgreens was initially reluctant to share information about the project and even City planners were in the dark about what the corporation planned to do with the 10 acres it purchased in 2007. Schultz suggests Walgreens was “nervous” about dealing with the city because of past developer experience, including political opposition to the EYA condo development around the Metro station and opposition to expanding the Adventist hospital. He points out, though, that the Crossroads area is not considered historic and opposition to development in the area is unlikely.

As for the rest of the 10 acres owned by Walgreens – the property extends from University Boulevard back to Holton Lane, where the Post Office is located – Walgreens says it has no plans for further development at this time.

**BUDGET TALKS**

continued from page 1

that goes into any P.E. or recreation department that meets the eye of the lay person,” she says. “It isn’t easy.”

Like other committee members, however, she does favor increasing volunteer participation. “We’ve got a huge resource in Takoma Park and an aging community. . . there are people who have some time, they could teach a class for free.” Sports programs already utilize volunteer commissioners, coaches, assistant coaches and scorekeepers, she adds.

The Recreation Committee report, delivered earlier in May, mentioned “volunteer” 18 times in a five-page report – so this is not a new idea. “I think there’ll be an effort to increase the number of volunteers,” says Keller. He suggests the trend will be toward using volunteers “as a multiplier of staff, not as a replacement.”

Even Seamens has backed off from his original proposal, focusing instead on the concept of a (volunteer) Recreation Commission, which would identify recreation needs and find providers to fill them. He also wants serious consideration of his idea to use volunteers to help staff the Community Center desk.

**Existing volunteers**

Volunteers already contribute significantly to City recreation programs, says Recreation Department Director Debra Haiduven: “Volunteers play an important role and they benefit the community.” Last year, the department tracked 176 volunteers who logged 3,851 hours of service; this year, those numbers increased to 241 volunteers, with 4,417 hours. These hours include the community service hours contributed by teens in the spring break program in which they volunteered in a soup kitchen, at the SPCA and helping an elderly resident with her yard and home.

Volunteers who contribute to recreation programs themselves include coaches and special event staff, instructors who teach computer skills, yoga and poetry to seniors, and volunteers who teach double Dutch jumping to children at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center every week.

The question, says Haiduven, is where volunteers are appropriate. “I don’t think you can have volunteer managers,” she says. “That stuff’s not fun. People get paid to do this, it’s their profession, in parks and recreation and management.” She also opposes staffing City buildings with volunteers who might not be trained for emergencies or in handling conflict.

**Beyond Volunteers**

While there was some ripple effect from Seamens’ proposal, no sea change has begun. “We’re basically continuing to serve the public,” says Haiduven, who is in the midst of running summer camp programs for children.

Similarly, the Recreation Committee is continuing with its current initiatives: continuing to support the winter basketball league it founded, which in its second year (2010) boasted 535 players; establishing the new Whiffle Ball League (see article, page 4); and, more generally, urging increased volunteerism, increased resident participation in an expanded range of recreation activities, establishing partnerships, and improving outreach and promotion.

Haiduven says with a high satisfaction rate [editor’s note: 70 percent satisfaction with recreation special events and programs for youth, according to the 2009 resident survey], she doesn’t anticipate major changes in programming. She hopes to improve marketing, especially through a new web site, and will continue to use volunteers who, she says, are essential to youth sports programs. And she hopes residents continue to value the recreation programs already in place:

“The recreation department is usually the first place in any community the people look to cut. I think the value that we bring to the community can’t always be quantified. Like the Master Card commercial says, ‘it’s priceless.’”

**Do You Hear Thunder?**

**THUNDERBOLTS 2010 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE**

Home games are at Montgomery Blair High School Baseball Stadium, 51 East University Boulevard, Silver Spring, Maryland in the Four Corners Area Admission Prices: Adults, \$5; Children under 18, \$2. Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE

Mon.-Sat. games start at 7 p.m.; Sunday games start at 6 p.m.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Saturday	6/26	Alexandria Aces
Monday	6/28	Youse’s Orioles
Tuesday	6/29	Rockville Express
Thursday	7/1	Herndon Braves
Friday	7/2	Maryland Cardinals
Wednesday	7/7	Baltimore Redbirds
Friday	7/9	Herndon Braves
Sunday	7/11	Youse’s Orioles
Thursday	7/15	Alexandria Aces
Saturday	7/17	Baltimore Redbirds
Friday	7/23	Bethesda Big Train
Sunday	7/25	Rockville Express

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat

league composed of eight teams in the D.C. and Baltimore areas. Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0794.

**BASEBALL CAMPS**

The team also runs SUMMER BASEBALL CAMPS in June and July for boys and girls 8 to 15. Instruction is from Inaki Ormaechea, Thunderbolts head coach, and Gary Lowe, assistant coach. They will be assisted by T-Bolts players. This is a camp for baseball players; kids have fun, and they learn the game of baseball. Emphasis is on: fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp in the evenings, campers can attend T-Bolts games where they can cheer on their coaches! We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Junior T-Bolts T-Shirt. The camps are June 28-July 2; July 5-9, July 12-16, and July 19-23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at Nolte Local Park, 200 Denver Ave., Silver Spring. The cost is \$195 per week. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for sibling and multi-year discount information, refund policy, and application forms, or call 301-270-0794.

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department sponsored program. For information, call 301-270-0794.